

RRES Weekly Report

September 18, 2002

Sent to ADO:

- TA-35 has completed the GSAF project to install new cooling tower and air washer control systems. This upgrade allows the air washers and cooling towers to operate at three cycles of concentration saving 5 - 8 million gallons of water annually. This increases cooling tower efficiencies, reduces chemical use, and reduces O&M costs. Contact: Bill Radzinski, FWO-SEM, radzinski_william@lanl.gov, 505 667-2116, Cody Trujillo, NIS-FMU 75, jct@lanl.gov, 505 667-0370
- The two CBFO characterization lines were mistakenly withdrawn from the recently completed SWEIS Supplemental Analysis. This leaves the lines, which are hoped to be installed at TA-54 in February, without required NEPA analysis. RRES Division is working to understand how this oversight occurred, and to identify a path forward for performing the necessary NEPA analysis. Contact Beverly Martin @ 665-0714.
- DVRS was given Startup Authority by the DOE LASO Manager on August 28, 2002. LANL processed the first hot FRP crate in the DVRS facility on August 29, 2002. We have processed several additional FRPs since then, and the total volume of TRU waste processed is about 10 cubic meters. So far, all process residues have been reduced to LLW for disposal at Area G, with no TRU or MLLW secondary items. POC: Dianne Wilburn @ 7-6952.

From RRES Programs

Disposition:

- Corrective Action Plans were submitted for the seven findings from the annual re-certification audit the last week in August. Contact Marji Gavett @ 665-5392.
- The two CBFO characterization lines were mistakenly withdrawn from the recently completed SWEIS Supplemental Analysis. This leaves the lines, which are hoped to be installed at TA-54 in February, without required NEPA analysis. RRES Division is working to understand how this oversight occurred, and to identify a path forward for performing the necessary NEPA analysis. Contact Beverly Martin @ 665-0714.

Prevention:

- Lab recovers plutonium from heat sources. The Lab's Offsite Source Recovery Program has recovered two sources from Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio. The plutonium oxide will be chemically purified to remove decay products and may be used in future heat sources or as calorimetry standards. This will be significant because the plutonium will be recycled rather than disposed as is the normal practice. Contact Marty Bowidoicz, NMT-9, 665-6625, martyb@lanl.gov.

- Cooling System Control Upgrades completed. TA-35 has completed the GSAF project to install new cooling tower and air washer control systems. This upgrade allows the air washers and cooling towers to operate at three cycles of concentration saving 5 - 8 million gallons of water annually. This increases cooling tower efficiencies, reduces chemical use, and reduces O&M costs. Contact: Bill Radzinski, FWO-SEM, radzinski_william@lanl.gov, 667-2116, Cody Trujillo, NIS-FMU 75, jct@lanl.gov, 667-0370
- Lab minimizes waste by refurbishing cubicle panels. 449 furniture panels at the Otowi building and the research library have had worn fabrics replaced, saving \$36 per panel and avoiding sending the worn panels to the landfill. The vendor, Goodmans, removed the panels, refurbished them, and reinstalled them in three days. Congratulations to STB-Research Library, BUS-3/7, and FWO/SSCM for taking the initiative to minimize waste. Contact Dru Price, FWO/SSCM, 667-4380, dru@lanl.gov

Protection:

- No report received.

Remediation:

- The Remediation Project is holding it's forth quarter public meeting on September 18 at the Betty Ehart Senior center Great Room from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.. Presentations will include a Poster Session, Clean up of TA-53 lagoons, In Situ Vitrification and Ecological Risk Assessment. POC Carmen Rodriguez @ 665-6770.
- The Remediation project is working with lab legal to generate a response to a letter received from NMED dated September 9, 2002. Within this letter the State is attempting to direct through the HSWA Installation Work Plan Schedule ER's FY03 work activities. The schedule contradicts the Laboratory's accelerated remediation PMP, the draft Section 13 I & S E Order and the NMED's December public notice of the annual work schedule. POC Paul Schumann @ 667-5840.
- LANL Remediation has been working with OLASO and ALB DOE to incorporate comments to the Remediation RFP. All local comments have been incorporated and we are now addressing Headquarters comments concerning small business set aside requirements. POC Allyn Pratt @ 667-4308.

Science & Technology:

- DVRS was given Startup Authority by the DOE LASO Manager on August 28, 2002. LANL processed the first hot FRP crate in the DVRS facility on August 29, 2002. We have processed several addition FRPs since then, and the total volume of TRU waste processed is about 10 M3 (48 55 gal drum equivalents.) So far, all process residues have been reduced to LLRW for disposal, with no TRU or MLLW secondary items. POC: Dianne Wilburn @ 7-6952.

From RRES Groups

AT:

- No report received.

ECO:

- Nothing to report.

ECR:

- See report under Remediation Program

MAQ:

- No report received.

SA:

- See report under Science and Technology Programs.

SWRC:

- TA-55-B-38 Closure Plan. ADO signature for the closure plan for this container storage unit will be needed the last week in September. POC: Jack Ellvinger @ 7-0633.
- Area J Closure: In a letter dated September 3, 2002, the NMED Solid Waste Bureau granted LANL a 60 day extension from August 28, 2002 to complete the as built construction drawings for the closure of the Area J solid waste landfill. Upon completion of a security review, a report with the as-built drawing and certification will be submitted to the NMED. POC: Albert Dye @ 7-4715.

WQH:

- RRES-WQH has submitted 13 applications on September 13, 2002 for the Laboratory's Above-ground Storage Tanks (ASTs) pursuant to new petroleum storage tank regulations promulgated by NMED. These applications cover 27 ASTs and the registration fee was \$100 per AST (total \$2700). The Laboratory is required to submit this fee on an annual basis.